

EXCELLENT PROGRESS IN ALASKA ROAD

(By Associated Press.)

SEWARD, Alaska, Nov. 9.—Wm. C. Eddes, chairman of the Alaskan engineering commission, who recently returned from Anchorage, reports excellent progress on the construction of the United States railroad.

Fifty-nine miles of track have been laid from Anchorage. With the 71 miles of the old Alaska Northern railway that are now in operation to Kearn Creek, there have been completed 130 miles of the 470 that will connect Seward and Fairbanks. The track so far laid from Anchorage consists of six miles south toward Seward; 38 miles of main line north ward to Fairbanks, and 15 miles on the Matanuska branch into the Matanuska coal fields.

The right of way has been cleared from Potter Creek, on Turnagain Arm, to Kings River, in the Matanuska coal field, a distance of 77 miles, and on the main line from Matanuska to the Little Susitna river. Rail will be laid this fall as far as Kings River, on the Matanuska branch, a distance of 62 miles from Anchorage, and to Wasilla, the name of the town where the railroad crosses the Knik-Willow creek wagon road, several people are gathering. Wasilla will be the distributing point for freight and supplies for the Willow Creek mining district. The government is taking immediate steps to survey small townsites at these places.

to Willow Creek, and north to Broad pass. At Willow Creek it will connect with the work under the Matanuska district, and at Broad pass with the work from the Nenana division.

Rail will be laid in the near future as far as Potter Creek, which is 15 miles southeast of Anchorage on Turnagain Arm, and from which point the rock work on Turnagain Arm will be attacked during the winter.

For the week ending September 9, 3568 men were employed on the Anchorage division, which includes commission employes, stationmen and laborers, the August payroll being \$258,330,000.

The population of Anchorage, which is the main construction base on the railroad, is between 4000 and 5000. At Matanuska, the junction of the Matanuska branch with the main line, a townsite was recently surveyed by the government, and a town is now in course of development. There is also a small town at Moose Creek, about 50 miles from Anchorage, where the first mine on the railroad is in operation. At Wasilla, the name of the town where the railroad crosses the Knik-Willow creek wagon road, several people are gathering. Wasilla will be the distributing point for freight and supplies for the Willow Creek mining district. The government is taking immediate steps to survey small townsites at these places.

The railroad north and south from

STARTLED BY KISS

Long Distance Courtship Rounds Up With a Mishap.

WRONG FELLOW IS HUGGED.

Victim Utters Incoherent Words of Inquiry When Prospective Husband Comes Along, and After Apologies He Hurries Her Off to Minister.

Parsons, Kan.—Marcella Howland kissed the wrong man. And inasmuch as Marcella at the time of her osculatory performance was engaged to be married and the man she kissed was not her prospective husband, she found herself in an embarrassing situation when the real groom hove to and made anxious inquiry as to her affection for another man. If it had been in the good old days of rapiers and swords perhaps there would have been a duel, with much blood, but there was none of that, and only a few people at the Katy station were aware of the near tragedy.

The story of the kissing and Marcella and the man she kissed and the man she should have kissed adds another chapter to the volumes that have been written about long distance love making. This episode might have been labeled "Courtship by Mail, or Wooing by Correspondence." The story is this, duly attested and sworn to by at least one of the parties concerned:

Marcella lives near Joplin and is a helper in a grocery store. A year ago she found the name of James Vandye in a case of eggs, the said James not being a barber, as his name might indicate, but a raiser of chickens and corn near Anadarko, Okla. Marcella wrote to James, and James replied. Then followed a correspondence with each succeeding letter ripened into love. A month ago it was decided to meet in Parsons and have a minister here perform the ceremony, an elopement being considered the proper thing to do.

James arrived and spent a restless afternoon waiting for his bride, who was to come from Joplin on the evening train.

Came 7:45 o'clock, and with it the

Anchorage passes through and develops a large agricultural country. There are now between 500 and 1000 homesteaders along the line of the railroad in this section, and the agricultural land is being rapidly developed. The homesteaders are supplying a considerable portion of the foodstuffs for the railroad employes and other people in that section of the country. Recently the Alaskan engineering commission contracted for 400 tons, or over 13,000 bushels, of potatoes with the Matanuska farmers. Products are being hauled by the farmers to Matanuska and shipped over the railroad to Anchorage and other points along the line. There is still room for a large number of homesteaders in the vicinity of the railroad, and the government hopes to encourage farmers from the states to come to Alaska and take up homesteads in the territory tributary to the railroad in order to develop the agricultural lands so that the country may some day in the near future be self supporting.

train from Joplin and Marcella. James was a bit confused in time and was not at the station. Marcella, wearing a pink carnation by prearrangement, went to the waiting room and sat down to await the arrival of her husband to be.

Now enter the other side of the triangle, whose name for the present is unknown, as he absolutely refused to divulge his identity. His name will be John Doe for this occasion. John entered the station and gazed over the crowds. Marcella saw him, and after giving him time to discover her tripped across the room and stood enraptured before the astonished man.

"Well, here I am, James," she said demurely, waiting for her fiancé to take her in his arms, etc., etc.

John gasped, but made no move toward her.

"Why, you bashful thing," the girl exclaimed, and with that bounded over to the man, threw her arms about him and planted a kiss upon his lips.

John extricated himself as best he could—or would, and was mumbling some incoherent words of inquiry when in came a breathless Vandye, who had come up just in time to behold the performance, and, convinced that some one was making away with his bride to be, rushed up to thwart him.

As he approached misgiving spread over Marcella's face. She had a faint suspicion that she had kissed the wrong man, and this suspicion grew with each step of the excited Vandye. He stood before her. She looked at Doe and then at Vandye. Yes, the last man was certainly the one she had come to meet. How could she have mistaken the other fellow for him, although their resemblance was quite marked?

Then apologies, explanations, assurances by Doe to Vandye that he was an innocent party and had no intention to "cop" Marcella, and then Marcella kissed the right man, right there in the station, with a score of people watching her.

The couple decided to take the 8:22 train back to Joplin and be married there. They hurried to a telephone, made an appointment with a minister there and left.

Try a small adlet in the Bonanza.

WHEN A WHALE BLOWS.

It is Steam, Not Water, the Cetacean Spouts into the Air.

Since a whale breathes air when it is below the surface the breath must be held, for if water should be taken into the lungs the animal would drown. Thus as soon as a cetacean comes to the surface its breath is expelled and a fresh supply inhaled before it again goes down.

The breath which has been held in the lungs for a considerable time under pressure is highly heated, and as it is forcibly expelled into the colder outer air it condenses, forming a column of steam. A similar effect may be produced by any person if on a frosty morning the breath is suddenly blown from the mouth.

That whales spout out of the blowholes water which has been taken in through the mouth is probably more widely believed than any other popular misconception. As a matter of fact, such a performance would be impossible, because a whale's nostrils do not open into the back of the mouth, as do those of a man, and the animal is not able to "breathe through its mouth," as can ordinary land mammals. — Roy Chapman Andrews in New York Independent.

Origin of the Gas Jet.

William Murdock, the inventor of the gas jet, first burned the gas simply as a flame from the end of a pipe. One day in an emergency he wished to stop the illumination. Hurriedly looking around for something, Murdock seized his wife's thimble and thrust it over the light, which was immediately extinguished.

There was a strong odor of gas, however, says the Popular Science Monthly, and the experimenter applied a light to the thimble, discovering that it was full of holes, through which tiny jets of flame appeared. The importance of the result was that the illumination from those two or three tiny jets was much brighter than had been given by the great flare from the end of the pipe. Acting on the principle which this chance discovery revealed, he constructed what was known as the Cocksfoot burner.

Try a small adlet in the Bonanza.

FRANCE INTERESTED IN OUR ELECTION

(By Associated Press.)

PARIS, Nov. 9.—American elections are being followed with the deepest interest, the news having the place of honor in most of the morning papers. Commentators are mindful of the dramatic surprises yesterday when the supposedly certain Hughes victory was turned into a possible defeat. They are all reluctant to commit themselves. A majority of the comment is similar to that of the Petit Journal, expressing belief that the victory of either candidate will have little effect in the American policy regarding the questions interesting France.

PIONEER WOMAN PASSES ON

Mrs. Mary Edgecomb, one of the early pioneers of Carson, died yesterday at her home in Carson. The deceased had been in ill health for some time and her death was not unexpected. She was born in Burlington, Vt., and was about 80 years of age, and leaves to mourn her demise a son, Ezekiel, of San Diego, and a sister, Mrs. J. Q. Adams of Genoa. The funeral will take place Thursday morning from the Catholic church, following high requiem mass. Interment will take place in the Catholic cemetery beside her husband, who died in this city many years ago—Appeal.

The Germans are adroit at passing the buck, but the Rumanians will testify that they are also there when it comes to bucking the pass.—Chicago Post.

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